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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MED-IBELL MEDICAL VISION TECHNOLOGIES, LTD.** [IL/IL]; M.T.M., 31905 Haifa (IL).

(71) Applicant (for SD only): **MCINNIS, Patricia** [US/US]; 2325 42nd Street, N.W., Apt. 203, Washington, District of Columbia 20007 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GIL, Tamir** [IL/IL]; Kibbutz Givat Haim Meuchad, 38930 Kibbutz Givat Haim Meuchad (IL). **WIGDERSON, Oded** [IL/IL]; Wingate Street, 18/5, 33533 Haifa (IL). **SASSON, Amit** [IL/IL]; Hanadiv Street, 57, 46485 Herzelia (IL). **NIZANI, Zvi** [IL/IL]; Hagalil Street, 114, 36803 Nofit (IL).

(74) Agents: **BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.** et al.; 624 Ninth Street N.W., Suite 300, Washington, DC 20001-5303 (US).

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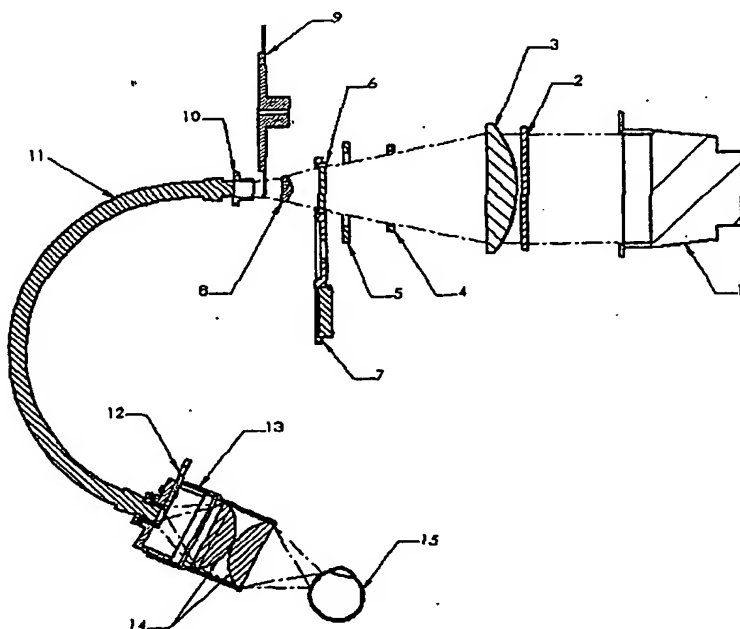
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **TRANSCLERAL OPHTHALMIC ILLUMINATION METHOD AND SYSTEM**



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for illuminating the interior of the eye through the sclera without any contact to the eye. The apparatus contains a lamp element (1) and optics that focus the light on the eye sclera. One or more fiber optics bundles (11) may be used to convey the light from the light source close to the illuminated eye, ending with condensing optical elements (13). Alternatively, light could be conveyed by sharing the optics of an imaging system. It is useful for observing or imaging the interior of the eye, the retina, or the choroid. The observation or the imaging of the interior of the eye, the retina, or the choroid by applying the disclosed illumination method can be done in conjunction with any system that includes optics for that purpose, e.g., fundus cameras and ophthalmoscopes, without using those systems' illumination elements.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 3/10, 18/18

US CL : 351/221; 606/4

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 351/200, 205, 206, 207, 208, 213, 214, 221, 246; 606/4, 5, 6; 604/289, 294

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,095,661 A (LEBENS et al) 01 August 2000 (01.08.2000), See abstract, column 6, lines 53-63.	1-7
A	US 5,966,196 A (SVETLIZA et al) 12 October 1999 (12.10.1999), See entire document.	
X	US 6,146,375 A (JUHASZ et al) 14 November 2000 (14.11.2000), See entire document.	1-3, 15-17
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Y		6, 7, 9, 10, 23
A	US 6,196,686 B1 (REINER) 06 March 2001 (06.03.2001), See entire document.	
A	US 4,200,362 A (POMERANTZEFF) 29 April 1980 (29.04.1980), See entire document.	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer

John R. Sanders

Telephone No. (703) 308-0858